

COMMENT OF THE DAY

One Subject Still Open

POSSIBLY the most significant feature about the Berlin conference is that there has been no genuine negotiation either on the question of Germany or the Austrian state treaty. But there has been a considerable amount of genuine argument, particularly in the early stages of the discussions. Then, the Ministers, while not really searching for common ground, were at least taking up one another's points, and maintaining a kind of dialectic contact. But during the last week their speeches have largely become monologues, with little relation to one another. It has sometimes appeared, rather ominously, as if each had begun to address his own public at home, preparing alibis for failure, and the case for a domestic verdict of "guilty" against the other side. Yet even at this late stage, there remain, under the surface discord, certain factors which sustain the hope that the conference will not be without some sort of accomplishment. There is, for example, the Chinese question. It has been only briefly discussed in public, and then in a curious kind of double-faced language, with one meaning for the public at large and another for the Ministers to whom it has been addressed. It seems fairly clear that all four countries want some kind of meeting with China, although, of course, not all want the same kind of meeting and not all want it for the same reason.

WHAT is really at issue is now not so much the question of whether such a five-power meeting is to be held, as its exact nature and agenda. Both the United States and Russia seem, for different reasons, to favour initially restricting the agenda of such a meeting to Korea, with the possibility of widening the agenda if progress is made over that question. France would, for obvious reasons, like to include Indo-China on the agenda, but would also like to make the conference dependent on the prior cessation of Chinese aid to Ho Chi-minh. The present military developments in Indo-China did not, however, provide M. Bidault with an easy negotiating position in this respect. However that may be, it is a fact that concurrently with the public argument on Germany and Austria, a genuine attempt in secret session is being made in Berlin to negotiate about China. In fact the impression is created that the loud disagreements on Germany and the Austrian treaty are being used to deflect the public ear to other issues, while the real negotiations on China that are still in progress.

Suicide Solves Double Murder

Mystery SENSATIONAL END TO MAN'S LIFE OF CRIME

Scotland Yard's Revelations

London, Feb. 16.

A pistol shot in a secluded wood near Cologne, Germany, today put an end to the violent life of Ronald John Chesney, 45, big time international crook and smuggler — and virtually closed the case of the double murder in the Ealing old folks home.

Chesney, bearded adventurer once tried for murdering his own mother, had been sought by police of Britain and the Continent since last week when his wife, Mrs Isobel Chesney, 43, and her eccentric mother, "Lady" Mary Menzies, 73, were found slain in the home for aged they ran in the middle class London suburb.

While the old men and women who had come to the Victorian mansion to spend their last years were asleep, the murderer drowned drink-befuddled Mrs Chesney in a bath tub. Creeping out of the house, he encountered self-styled "Lady" Mary and knocked her unconscious with a pewter jug, then strangled her.

An hour after receiving the report today from Germany that Chesney had blown his face off with a .45 revolver, detectives in charge of the case held a conference.

Tonight they indicated they were satisfied the dossier on the fantastic crime, which had linked a seemingly respectable home for the aged with international smuggling and gun running, was almost complete.

Chesney, a war-time naval officer, imagined himself a modern pirate. He even wore dangling golden earrings and indulged in swashbuckling talk as he smuggled everything from guns to coffee beans between a variety of countries.

He was gaoled in France several times for racketeering. Belgium deported him in 1949.

In 1951 he was sent to prison in Britain for 12 months for trying to smuggle a car out of the country packed with pound sterling notes and coffee beans.

A magistrate who sentenced Chesney described him as "a man who has made a career as a professional smuggler."

His gun-running activities involved him with international gangs in France, Belgium, Germany and Egypt.

Chesney's real name was Donald John Merrett. He changed it several times after prison terms. His mother and father met on a ship taking them to New Zealand and the family later lived in Russia.

From early youth, he loved a gay life and was unscrupulous about how he got the money for it.

At the age of 19, while a student at Edinburgh University, he forged cheques in his mother's name. Then she was found shot in her Edinburgh home. As she lay dying in

hospital, suspected of being a suicide, her son went on frequenting local dance halls, flirting with women and drinking champagne.

But he was arrested and brought to trial in 1927 for the murder of his mother. The jury brought in a verdict of "not guilty" — which under Scottish law meant they were in doubt about his guilt, but left the way open for his retrial if the police got more evidence. He went to prison for a year for forgery.

When he came out of gaol, he adopted his first alias by calling himself "Miller" — his mother's maiden name.

Tall and athletic, he exuded a charm which made women fall for him. But beneath the surface, he was remorseless and scheming.

A few years after leaving prison, he married Isobel Bonar, the beautiful blonde daughter of a widow — which time he had changed his name again — this time to Ronald John Chesney.

BARONETCY CLAIM

The widow herself was married again soon afterwards — to Thomas Chalmers Menzies, a kilted little Scottish typewriter salesman who insisted he was the heir to a defunct baronetcy. Chesney, "Sir Thomas" and "Lady Menzies" through the authorities laughed at their claim.

Chesney and his wife lived like high society. They holidayed on the Riviera, rented yachts and threw lavish cocktail parties.

It is probable Chesney was smuggling and racketeering even in those days.

Before the war, he and his wife parted. When war broke out, he decided there was only one service for such a buccaneer as he — the Navy. He became a Lieutenant-Commander and, according to his comrades, was a brave and daring sailor. The Germans captured him, but he escaped.

After the war, he linked up with smuggling organisations on the continent. He must have made a great deal of money. But he became too well known to the police, and customs men of almost every country in Europe.

POND OF DRAIN

As the going became difficult, he found his wife and her mother running the old folks home in Ealing, London, of which he still in love with him. (Continued on page 3, Col. 6)

Paper Offers Helicopter For Sale

London, Feb. 16. L. O. R. Beaverbrook's paper, the Evening Standard, today offered for sale its helicopter which it bought last summer and used mostly for low altitude photography.

Five days ago the newspaper and the helicopter pilot were each fined £20 for low flying.

An advertisement on the front page today said no reasonable offer would be refused.

It added "reason for sale: indifference in high Ministerial places mounting at times to hostility to the use of the helicopter in the London area." — China Mail Special.

Calcutta Riots: Three Killed, Many Injured

Calcutta, Feb. 16.

Mobs ran amok in Calcutta today, plundering stores and demonstrating against America, as riots over school teachers' wages snowballed into a bloody free-for-all stopped only by police bullets.

The police confirmed that at least three persons were killed. More than 100 were sent to hospital, including 20 seriously wounded by police fire. Scores more were treated at first aid stations set up by the police.

Screaming mobs overran American buildings in Chowringhee Square smashing plate glass windows and shattering furniture.

Rioters invaded the United States Information Service library, pulled pictures from the walls, tore books from shelves and ripped magazines to shreds.

More than 1,000 rioters stormed the American-operated Metropolitan Life Insurance building, smashed plate glass windows and wrecked everything they could get their hands on.

The plundering and destruction were stopped only when police fired into the crowds and exploded tear gas bombs.

PILFERING

Street unchins prowled in the wake of the angry mob, pilfering from stores and taking valuables from the ruins. At least 12 street cars and 20 buses were set on fire and were raided for any articles left by the passengers and not destroyed by the fire.

The trouble started in the square and spread across the city in all directions. Much of the city was blanketed in darkness as electric cables were cut. The only light came from the burning buses and street cars.

Many of the injured were trampled by fear-crazed horses and weakened by the tear gas bombs. Others were hurt by bricks and other debris tossed by fellow rioters. Untold numbers of injured evaded treatment of their wounds to avoid police questioning. They ran into hiding as snipers patrolled the streets to pick up the wounded. — United Press.

Dance Hostess Threatened

Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 17.

Singapore's newspaper queen, a beautiful Chinese dance hostess, Miss Alice Chang, who is now working in a cabaret, has been told by secret society thugs to pay them \$31,000 or get out of the Federal capital.

Miss Chang said yesterday that she had called at her cabaret several nights, receiving demands for ransom money. In the case of \$10,000, she said, she was so short of cash that she was unable to pay. The cabaret manager, she said, was a Chinese named Tan. — United Press.



The Glasgow to Euston express, Royal Scot, recently collided with the Euston to Wolverhampton train at Watford. Two rear coaches of the Royal Scot were derailed. Picture shows one of the damaged coaches seen under the light of flares at Watford station.

MORE PAY FOR MP's PROPOSED

London, Feb. 16.

A Parliamentary Select Committee recommended today that Members of Parliament's salaries be raised from £1,000 to £1,500 a year and that retired legislators be pensioned.

The Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill's Conservative Government must now decide whether to support and introduce the recommendations.

They apply only to Members of the House of Commons. Peers, who sit in the House of Lords, get no pay unless they are members of the Government.

The Committee's recommendations were spurred by long complaints that many Members of Parliament no longer could make ends meet.

Salaries were last raised from £600 to £1,000 in 1940. The Committee found that what £1,000 bought then now costs £1,440.

Pensions would be based on the number of years' service after the age of 40. Service before that would not count. Pensions would become payable only after 65.

Between 10 and 15 years' service would result in a pension of £350 a year and over 15 years' service £500. — United Press.

Threat By Tribesmen

Khartoum, Feb. 16.

The Sudan Government tonight decided to send two Ministers to Juba, in the South Sudan, following reports of anti-northern demonstrations and threats amongst tribesmen.

Reports reaching the Sudan Government today said that Bari tribesmen were gathering in villages outside Juba threatening to invade the town.

Juba traders were said to have closed their shops. The Sudan Government Ministers will leave for Juba by air on Wednesday.

In a statement tonight, the Sudanese Government said it had received cables from individuals and groups, warning that some natives had staged demonstrations in Juba. The cables, the statement said, accused some British administrators of participating in the disturbances.

The Government of South Sudan had reported that there was a rebellion in the area, but according to the statement, the situation was not serious. — United Press.

Deep Sea Divers Planning New Adventure

Dakar, Feb. 16.

Two French naval divers who ate lunch at the lowest undersea depth ever reached by man announced over breakfast today that they intended to explore the earth's deepest water in the Pacific.

Lieut.-Cmdr Nicholas Houot and engineer Henri Willm said that they hoped to follow up yesterday's record-setting 18,163-foot plunge off the West African coast with an attempt to reach bottom in the vast Philippine Deep — nearly three times the depth of yesterday's conquest.

But they said that another bathyscaphe would be needed to attempt the Pacific depth. It has been sounded at 35,000 feet.

In their submarine-shaped diving bathyscaphe yesterday the pair touched bottom 120 miles out in the Atlantic in a five-and-a-half-hour descent that broke Professor Auguste Piccard's 1953 record.

Lieut.-Cmdr Houot said on return from the diving scene this morning that no definite schedule had been made yet for an attempt on the Philippine Deep. Time would be required to build another diving apparatus, he said.

NEED NEW CRAFT

The 40-year-old officer said that the bathyscaphe used yesterday "had thick enough sides to withstand pressure of 3,520 pounds or a theoretical depth of 52,000 feet. But it was designed to dive to 15,000 feet, and it has done it. We hope now to construct another craft for a deeper dive in the Pacific."

Telling of the historic descent, Willm said that the pair lunched yesterday about 70 feet off the sandy bottom. They were well beyond Piccard's 10,238-foot record, and paused to rest.

"We hadn't had a bite to eat since six o'clock in the morning — too many instruments to check and last-minute preparations. So we opened a bottle of Muscadet (white wine) and ate some sandwiches before reaching the bottom," he said.

"The two men described the sand on the ocean floor as being 'extremely fine in texture and with slight ridges and scattered terraces.'"

The only living creature found at the deepest point ever reached by man was a six-foot shark which stared at Willm.

Ancient Necklace Found

Budapest, Feb. 16.

Pieces of a golden necklace were found in the village of Babakovaci (County Vas), near the ruins of a villa from the Roman age, the official news agency MTI reported.

Three coins, which decorated the necklace, show Emperor Valerian and scientists believe the necklace, presumably made in Rome, had been buried around 280 AD. The necklace will be restored and exhibited in Budapest's National Museum. — United Press.

America's Two New Weapons

Palm Beach, Feb. 16.

General Matthew Ridgway, the United States Army Chief of Staff, said today that a guided missile with a range of more than 50 miles and a rocket capable of hitting targets about 17 miles behind enemy front lines had been added to the United States Army arsenal.

General Ridgway, speaking at the Society of Four Arts here, said the "disparity of manpower between the United States and the forces of the Communist bloc makes American technological superiority mandatory."

Later in reference to "two of our latest weapons," General Ridgway said: "one... is used in a manner similar to artillery and has the range characteristics of our present heavy artillery."

(The range of ordinary heavy artillery is about 17 miles.) "The great advantage is that its launcher can be put into position much more quickly than conventional artillery and can deliver explosive on the target equivalent to hundreds of rounds of artillery shells."

To extend the army's firepower capabilities beyond the range of this weapon, and of the 280 millimetre cannon too, the Army has a guided missile which is being issued to Army units for tactical use.

"It attains supersonic speed and it is guided to the target throughout its flight. Having a range of more than 50 miles, surface to surface, it poses a threat to the enemy's installations far beyond the range of conventional Army weapons." — Reuter.

BIG TRADE CONTRACTS

Moscow, Feb. 16.

Russia announced tonight that the Soviet Union's Foreign Trade Ministry had signed contracts with British firms for equipment worth £17,332,000.

The contracts, including orders for trawlers, textile machinery and electrical plants, were placed with members of the 33-man British business group which visited Moscow this month and with businessmen working independently. An official Soviet statement said agreement had also been reached in principle for further contracts worth 650,000,000 Roubles (about £49,167,000) for more trawlers, diesel generating stations, machine tools and food industry equipment.

"These are the first results and it is expected that even greater business will follow," the statement said. — Reuter.

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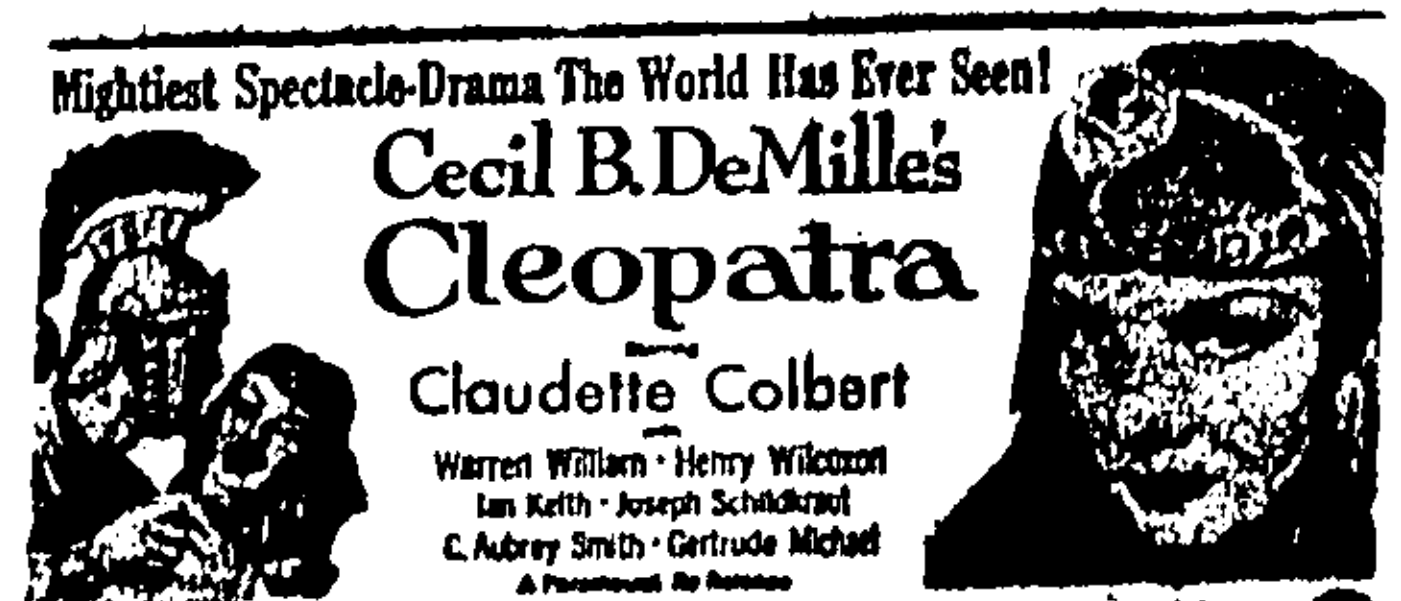
KING'S PRINCESS

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.

★ FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY ★



KING'S PRINCESS COMMENCING TO-MORROW



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★ FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY ★

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

ON PANORAMIC SCREEN

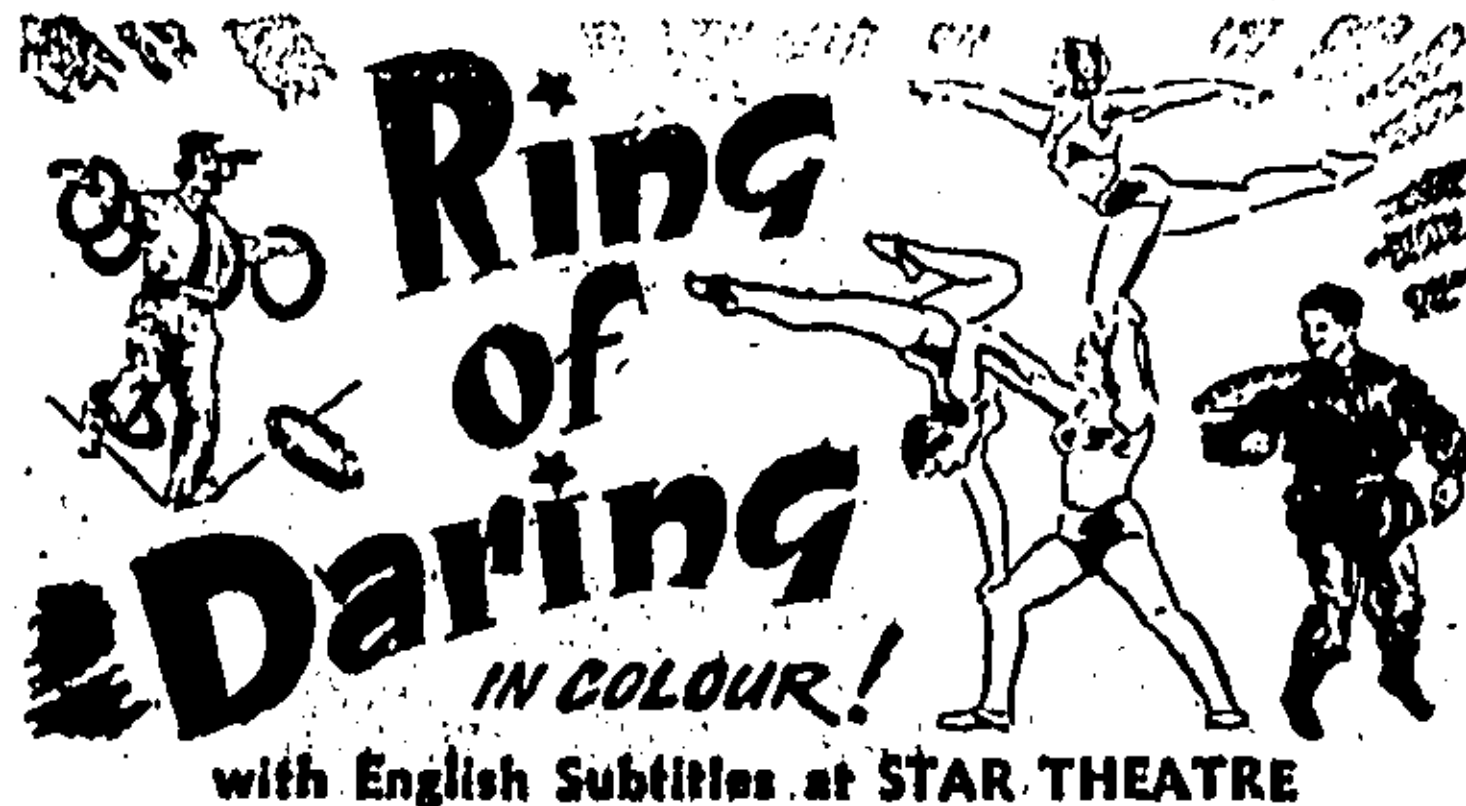


COMMENCING TO-MORROW

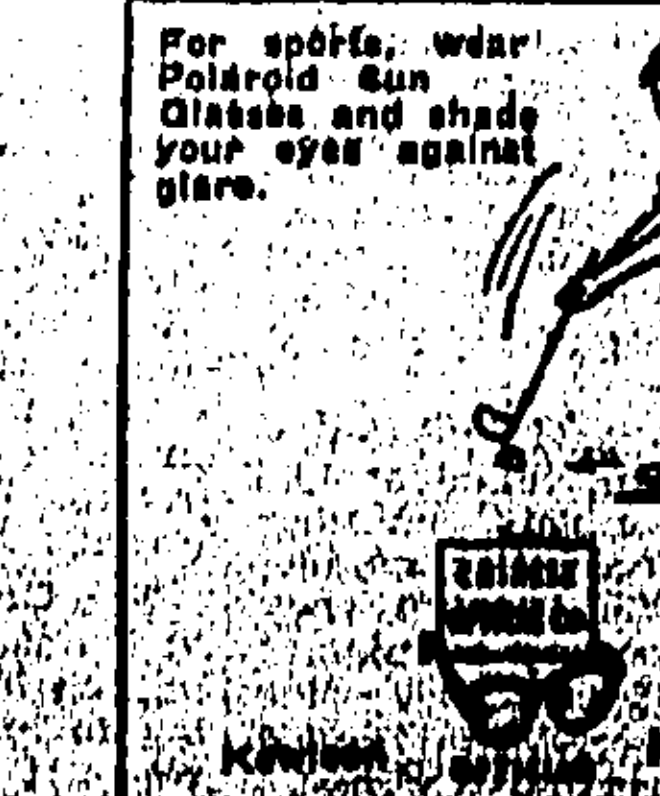


BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

Cathay STAR

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.TO-DAY & TO-MORROW
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.30,
7.30 & 9.30 P.M.THE FILM PRESENTS THE THRILLING & WONDERFUL
NUMBERS PERFORMED BY THE CIRCUS ARTISTS OF
USSR. WITH A SPLENDID SCENE & GLORIOUS COLOR.

POP

REDS LINKED WITH US
DOPE RINGS

"Malignant Effort To Profit From Ruin Of A Generation"

New York, Feb. 16. American Police authorities believe that agents of world Communism may be in league with domestic drug peddlers in a malignant effort to profit from the ruin of a generation of Americans.

Dr. Lois Higgins, director of the Crime Prevention Bureau of Chicago declared recently there could be no possible grounds for doubting that such an alliance existed.

She said that well-authenticated evidence, gathered and confirmed by a number of agencies including military intelligence and the Federal Narcotics Bureau, "positively" linked Communists with the increase in traffic in narcotics.

More than a year earlier, in the course of United Nations debate on the international aspect of the drug traffic, the United States delegation had declared that drugs reaching United States servicemen in Japan and Korea came from Communist China.

"Optim and heroin from Communist China, is, and has been flooding the world market," Dr. Higgins declared. "It has been definitely established that money derived from this source has partly financed the Communist war effort in Korea."

Release Of 3 Jews: "A Friendly Gesture"

London, Feb. 16. The World Jewish Congress said today Communist Hungary has acquitted and freed "as a friendly gesture" three Jewish leaders arrested for Zionist activity.

The Congress said the three were Dr. Bela Dencs who was leader of the Zionist movement in Hungary until it was liquidated in 1949, Henrik Gals, former Zionist Secretary-General in Budapest, and Abraham Kerner, leader of the Orthodox religious Hungarian Jews.

"Jews throughout the world will derive great satisfaction from the news of the release of these three prominent and well-known Jewish leaders," a Congress spokesman said. "The action of the Hungarian authorities will be considered as a friendly gesture which will no doubt be regarded as a factor contributing to better international relations."

The three were indicted on charges of Zionist activity. Dencs also was sentenced to imprisonment following his arrest in 1949 on charges of assisting Jewish immigration to Israel, the Congress said.

ULTRIOR MOTIVE? Informed sources, however, credited the timing of the Hungarian action to the scheduled arrival in Budapest today of an Israeli trade delegation.

These sources said that Hungary was seeking orders for considerable amounts of goods. Hungary is a debtor nation to West Germany. It hoped to reduce its trade deficit with the Bonn Government in a three-way deal by exports to Israel which Germany would pay for under the \$800,000,000 reparations programme for the Jews.

Meanwhile, Jewish sources here reported that the British Labour Party was exerting influence on Austrian socialists in support of Israeli reparations claims against the Austrian Government. — United Press.

Intent cordial

Raising Morale Of Chinese Armies

London, Feb. 16. Communist China began a new campaign to strengthen the morale of her armies defending her frontiers and coasting with a special nationwide hook-up of broadcasting stations tonight.

The radio reported special broadcasts stations were leaving to visit Communist troops stationed throughout the country.

From Peking, Kuo Mo Jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee, wished the missions success in encouraging the Army to consolidate national coastal and frontier defence posts. — China Mail Special.

Her Electricity Bill Was £153 For 6 Months!

Sydney, Feb. 16. A woman who used 2,250,000 gallons of water in eight months and whose electricity bill for six months was £153 has been ordered from her Housing Commission home at Dundas, New South Wales.

She is Mrs. Maile O'Neill, 38, a widow who lives with her 11-year-old daughter.

A local government official complained that Mrs. O'Neill's water consumption was about 30 times the normal consumption in a house of that type. "She must have had all the taps in her house running constantly for three or four weeks," he said.

Housing Commission officials who tested the water meter at Mrs. O'Neill's house found that it registered correctly.

Recently, Mrs. O'Neill received an electricity bill for £153 for six months' supply. She refused to pay, so the power was cut off. — China Mail Special.

She Got 187 Marriage Proposals

Toronto, Feb. 16. Lilo Kaesche of Hamburg, Germany, who received 187 proposals of marriage, was getting acquainted today with the suitors who pleased her best.

Miss Kaesche, 30, said she was still only "looking over" Jack Fletcher, an A. V. Roe Company employee. She said his letter convinced her she ought at least to come to Canada and see him.

Miss Kaesche was cited in a weekend magazine article as an example of the many German women between the ages of 28 and 43 who will never marry. Shortly after the article appeared in Canada proposals of marriage began to roll in.

A total of 187 men offered their hand, including engineers, a clergyman, an agricultural scientist, a company executive, three University students and many others.

She said many offered to pay her passage to Canada and a few even said if she did not like it they would pay her passage back.

"Almost without exception the writers seemed to be decent and sincere people," she said. — United Press.

"I Won't Be An Old Maid"

New York, Feb. 16. Miss Margaret Truman, the daughter of ex-President Truman, will be 30 on Wednesday.

She declared today that she firmly intended to marry one day. She told journalists who came to interview her that she had no intention of becoming an old maid. — France-Press.

"Dip" In US Economy Sharper Than Expected

Washington, Feb. 16. A Federal Reserve economist said today the dip in the United States economy has been "sharper" than was disclosed in President Eisenhower's economic report to Congress.

Mr. Winfield W. Riefler, Assistant to the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, said that the Federal Reserve's index of production has declined about 10 per cent in the six and a half months since last July.

This drop in production, he said, was "equal to the full decline in the 1948-49 recession."

In the report issued late yesterday the Federal Reserve Board said that United States industry produced 1.6 per cent less in January than in December. It added, however, that activity in most other fields continued "at advanced levels."

It was the sixth month in a row in which industrial output fell. The January decline was the same as December's but both were slightly smaller than the drop in November.

While this decline "does not change the diagnosis (in the President's report) that the current reaction reflects primarily an unbalanced inventory situation," Mr. Riefler said, "it raises the possibility that it may in itself set forces in motion that will spread more widely over the economy."

Mr. Riefler testified before the Congressional Economic Committee at hearings on credit policy and its impact on the economy.

A panel of bankers and economists generally supported Administration credit policies. — United Press.

Another US Protest To Red China

Washington, Feb. 16. The United States has again protested to the Chinese Communist authorities through the British representative in Peking against the detention by China of 32 American civilians, it was learned from an informed source here on Tuesday.

The Americans included Richard Applegate, former United Press correspondent in Korea, Don Dixon of International News Service and Captain Ben Krauser, a Merchant Marine officer, who were picked up by the Communists while sailing from Hongkong to Macao in Applegate's yacht, Kert.

The others included missionaries, students and businessmen. — France-Press.

Washington, Feb. 16. A new and simple method of preserving bone for use in grafts has been developed in United States Air Force hospitals.

The bone is placed in a salt solution containing germ-fighting penicillin and streptomycin, and kept in an ordinary refrigerator, thus eliminating the necessity of using extreme low temperature refrigeration, as in a deep freeze.

A hundred grafts have been performed successfully with bone stored by the new method. — China Mail Special.

COMMENCING TUESDAY, FEB. 23 at the PRINCESS THEATRE



QUEEN'S & AMHAMBRA

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★



LEE WORLD

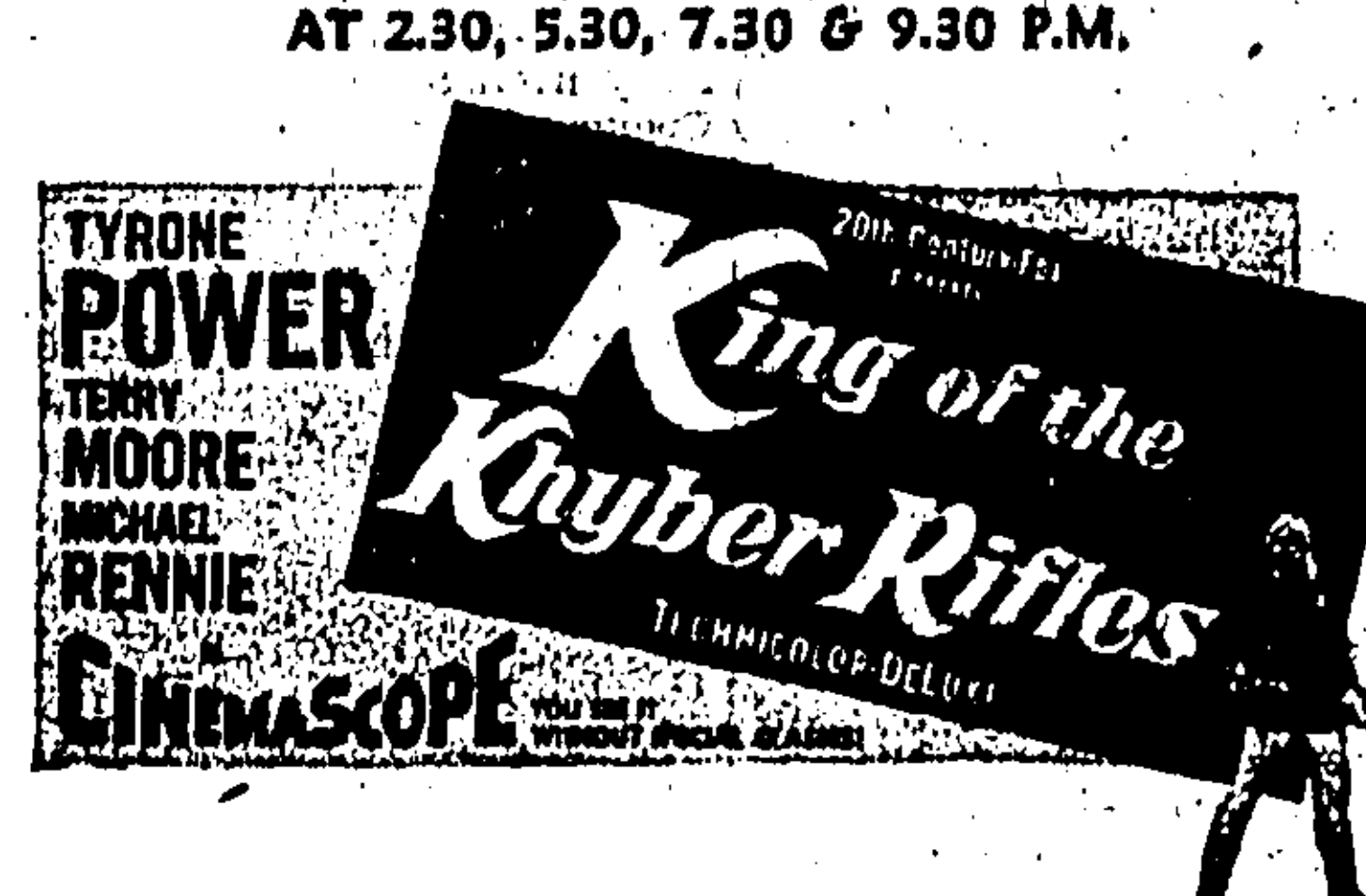
★ FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY ★
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

★ A CHINESE PICTURE ★

"A LOVE STORY"

DIALOGUE IN MANDARIN
COMMENCING TO-MORROW

ROXY & BROADWAY

2nd TRIUMPHANT WEEK!
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

Admission at Usual Prices
ROXY: \$3.50, \$2.40 & \$1.50.
BROADWAY: \$3.50, \$2.40 & \$1.50.
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
Complimentary Tickets Are Not Valid For This Picture

EMPIRE MAJESTIC

TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m. At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHS

by our Staff Photographers

Medical Society Dinner.
Marine Dept. Farewell Party.
Sino-British Club Dinner Party.
Canadian Memorial Service at Sai Wan.
Valentine Dance at Kowloon Tong Club.
H.K. Technical College "AT HOME".
British Medical Association Dance.
Northumberland & Durham Association Dinner Dance.
Opening of Kowloon Canton Railway Club.
Latin-American Association Dinner Dance.
Wah-Yan Old Boys Association Dance.
H.K. Stage Club "TARTUFFE".
R.N. Volunteer Dance.
Refugee Club Ladies Night.
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST LTD.

FIERCE FRENCH ATTACKS IN INDO-CHINA

Several Successes Reported By High Command

Paris, Feb. 16.

A Hanoi report said Franco-Vietnam forces today, in a bid to secure the initiative from the Vietminh, launched fierce attacks in several sectors of the wide front and reported successes in several areas.

In Central Vietnam, French Union troops completely occupied Tuy Hoa, according to an official French High Command communique.

In Laos, Franco-Laotian reconnaissance elements struck out from Muong Sai and ousted Vietminh units from their positions with heavy casualties.

A report from Washington said the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Alexander Smith (Republican) announced that US aid for Indo-China in the next financial year would amount to about \$1,000 million — about the same as in the present one.

"Everything in Indo-China is proceeding to plan and there is no cause for alarm at the military situation," he said. "Chinese intervention is a remote possibility neither likely nor serious," he added.

At Dien Bien Phu French Union troops with air and artillery support made an offensive reconnaissance near the beleaguered city. Two well-entrenched rebel positions in the hills overlooking Dien Bien Phu were completely overrun.

The Vietminh rebels are expected to launch an all-out assault against the French "hedgerhog" position of Muong Sai as a prelude to attacking the Laotian Royal capital of Luang Prabang, military sources said in Paris tonight.

The post, which threatens the left flank of the Communist advance on Luang Prabang, about 60 miles to the southwest, was subjected to night-long harassing attacks, which suggested the rebels were trying to find the weakest spot in the French defences.

Powerful French air strikes and artillery barrages today "neutralised" the pressure on the French position for the time being, it was stated here.

"CONTAINED"
French officers said the Vietminh offensive which began with their Christmas drive to the Mekong River had been "contained." But General Vo Nguyen Giap, the Communist Commander-in-Chief, did not appear to have given up all hope of being able to launch a frontal attack against Luang Prabang.

Systematic testing of the French defences around the Royal capital by Communist guerrilla units indicated that the Vietminh were seeking a weak spot.

French aircraft today pounded the main body of the Vietminh force, still marking time about 30 miles north of Luang Prabang.

The Vietminh rebel radio broadcast an editorial from the Communist-dominated Labour Party's main newspaper today saying the arrival of 200 American air technicians in Indo-China.

It described this American assistance as "a shameful American intervention in Indo-China, which unmasks the imperialists of that country whose intentions are to invade Asia."

NOTHING KNOWN
Washington, Feb. 16.
The State Department said today nothing was known in Washington to confirm a news report that a United States submarine had sunk a Soviet submarine off the coast of Formosa.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle

1	P	3	X	E	R	A	C	E	S
2	L	A	T	E	R	A	A		
3	E	E	A	B	C	R			
4	A	B	R	A	D	E	R		
5	S	I	N	C	E	R	E	D	O
6	D	A	A	V	E	R	T	E	D
7	D	E	V	I	A	T	E	R	A
8	V	S	E	D	E	N	G	I	N
9	R	N				T	E	N	A
10	E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	I
11	S	E	A			S	A	V	O
12	S	T	R	A	N	G	L	E	S

ACROSS
3 Raised walks (8).
7 Subsequently (5).
8 Lashed (8).
10 Scrape (6).
13 Honest (7).
15 Prescribed amount (4).
17 Warded off (7).
18 Turn aside (7).
20 Not fresh (4).
21 Power units (7).
26 Occupant (6).
27 Bodily exertion (8).
28 Kind of cabbage (6).
29 Throttle (8).

DOWN
1 Insects (6).
2 Severe (6).
3 Commerce (6).
4 Origin (4).
5 Vegetable (6).
6 Moved crab-wise (6).
10 Solid (6).
11 Wait (6).
12 Pungent (6).
14 Happenings (6).
15 Exhaust (6).
16 Numerical (6).
18 Constraint (6).
19 Skin coating (6).
22 Inguinal (6).
24 Remains (6).
26 Scrutiny (6).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1 Scrape, 5 Words, 8 Relax, 10 Vital, 11 Panel, 13 Lash, 15 Mode, 18 Seared, 20 Shave, 23 River, 25 Cabin, 26 Tugboat, 27 Sewer, 28 Utter, 29 Scrape, 30 Down, 31 Supplies, 32 Response, 33 Prop, 34 Senator, 35 Wavered, 36 Bulbs, 37 Draft, 38 Stagnant, 39 Stampede, 40 Mariner, 41 Debates, 42 Carole, 43 Hapt, 44 Lash.

"Basin Cut" For Boy Star



Back into favour comes the 'Pudding Basin Cut', with boy film actor Tommy Kearn, 15, of Glasgow, in the starring role at Ealing Studios, London. Operating the scissors is co-actor Abe Barker. Tommy, son of a Glasgow labourer, was chosen by director Alexander (Sandy) Mackendrick to play the key role of 'The Wee Boy' in the new Ealing Studios-Michael Balcan film 'The Maggie'.

Retrial in the "Franciscal Case":

Judge Says: "You'll Be In Court For A Long Time"

London, Feb. 16.

A second attempt began today at the Old Bailey, London central criminal court, to decide whether or not five men conspired fraudulently to switch race horses at a West England track last summer and to bring off a £60,000 betting coup.

A first trial ended after 18 days last month with disagreement among the jury. A new hearing was ordered.

With the new trial opened today, the judge warned the new jury that they would be in court for "a considerable time."

The five men have all pleaded not guilty. They are alleged to have arranged to run a superior French horse named Santa Amaro in the name of another French horse of similar markings named Franciscal in a selling plate race at the Bath track.

They are also alleged to have placed a series of substantial bets with bookmakers.

The horse won at odds of ten to one, but the bookmakers refused payment when it was discovered that the only phrase link with the course was cut just before the race, preventing the "laying off" heavy last minute bets.

The five accused are George Kately, 42, hairdresser and bookmaker, Victor Dill, 68, dealer, Maurice Williams, 47, builder, decorator, Gamet Charles, 46, turf accountant, and William Rook, 67, Engineer.—China Mail Special.

UK Not Considering Replacing Suez With Other Bases

London, Feb. 16.

Britain and the other NATO countries are not considering replacing the Suez Canal bases with other bases in the Eastern Mediterranean area, Mr. Nigel Birch, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, stated today.

Quarried by Labour MP, Philip Price, who suggested that Turkey might be a more reliable place than Egypt for defence arrangements at present, Mr. Birch replied: "That there was 'certainly' something in what Mr. Price says."

He added in reply to another Labour MP that Turkey was "our ally in NATO. We shall certainly do everything we can to support her." He stated that Cyprus and Cyrenica, as alternative bases, were outside the NATO area. —France-Press.

LEFT £122,276 TO YWCA

Halifax, Feb. 16.

A Yorkshire woman who was not a member of the Young Women's Christian Association and had never given it any funds left the YWCA £122,276. It was revealed here today.

She was Miss Evelyn Taylor, 67, who died last November. It is believed Miss Taylor had no family living and secretly anyone knew that she possessed a fortune. She left a will which gave the money to the YWCA. —China Mail Special.

"Wolf Boy Was Reared Among Animals" Two Experts Report

London, Feb. 16.

Two medical authorities — one British and one Indian — issued statements today about Ramu, the Indian "wolf boy" both confirming their opinions that he was "reared among animals."

Some quarters have suggested it is a hoax and a violent controversy has raged over the 9-year-old boy who growls but cannot speak and who can smell raw meat before it is brought into his room.

Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, celebrated British authority on tropical medicine and the only Western specialist to examine the "Wolf Boy" of Lucknow, said today he has no doubts that the Indian child was reared among animals.

Sir Philip was in Lucknow on a lecture tour when the boy, called "Ramu", was brought to the hospital there for treatment. Sir Philip spent some time examining him and reported he considered it a "genuine case" of a child having lived among animals.

He said the deformities were caused by lying in unnatural positions "as though he had been crammed into a hole or den."

"CONTRACTED UP"
"His left arm is contracted up," said Sir Philip, "but it appears to be a diffused paralysis, possibly caused by lying in a hole without any opportunity to move. He cannot speak and he eats and drinks like an animal."

"His toes show he never has tried to walk as a human child. I don't think there is any doubt about it—he has been living among animals."

"There have been reports of similar incidents from Russia and elsewhere over the years, but I don't know much about them," he said.

Sir Philip's Secretary, Mr. W. J. Muggleton, who was present at the examination at Lucknow, said that the "wolf-boy" has scars on his head where he has been bitten by animals.

REARS WITH GROWLS
"He does not react with speech," he said, "but with growls."

In Lucknow, a professor of Medicine at the King George Medical College, Dr. B. B. Bhattacharya, said today after examining the "wolf boy" he believed the child had lived since infancy in the company of some carnivorous animal.

This animal, he found, has the definite instincts of a carnivorous animal. He can smell raw meat from a distance. He relishes eating it and bites it with his incisors, bolting it rapidly without effective chewing.

"There is no area in this State," Dr. Bhattacharya said, "and no tribes that eat raw meat and it cannot be concluded that the boy was taught this habit by his parents."

He also concluded, as did the British expert, that they were due to the child's having lain in a small cave or hole in an unnatural position.

Some doubts were raised by Professor Kali Prasad, head of the Department of Psychology at Lucknow University. He pointed out an absence of callouses on the boy's hands and said that this indicated he did not walk much on all fours.

Garrison Players

present

Bonaventure

by

Charlotte Hastings

Wednesday, Feb. 24th

Thursday, Feb. 25th

Friday, Feb. 26th

Saturday, Feb. 27th

8.30 p.m.

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Bookings:—SKINNERS (Pedder St.)

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"RELIEVING WORLD TENSION"

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"GENERAL CHINA"
(the Mau Mau thug who is to die)
SHOWS A WAY

By John Redfern
who has just returned from Kenya

JUSTICE has caught up with Mau Mau's "General China" — and only a fortnight after he came out, wounded, from the bush in Kenya.

"China," whose real name is Waruhiu Itote, has been sentenced to death.

Well, there goes the No. 2 man of the half-dozen field commanders of Mau Mau. Above him was only Dedan Kimathi, flamboyant publicity seeker.

Below "China" was "Maten-jago" — "the hairy one" — who was killed only a few weeks ago.

For months in Kenya I heard of "General China," 32-year-old ex-corporal, holder of

the Burma Star. Informants, prisoners, came across with bits about him. They even brought over some well-worn pictures showing him posing with his staff — some of them wearing stolen medals — in their forest hide-out.

At his trial he claimed to command 4,000 Mau Mau terrorists. But like all Mau Mau leaders, when caught he tried to put a good face on his activities.

That is why I do not attach much importance to what he said about his intention to surrender.

other side in the Mathira district, which was "China's" home.

Today in an area of roughly 1,000 square miles of reserve land are about 1,000 hard-core Mau Mau.

The Kikuyu huts lie in huddles along a series of ridges. From the air the ridges look lonely. It is "Boys' Own Paper" Africa. But the population is dense.

The encouraging thing is that General Erskine would rather do battle in the reserve than up amid the close-packed forests where visibility is about 70 yards at high noon.

Operating independently of the 1,000 killers on the ridges are approximately another 1,000 split into gangs near Timau, Fort Hall, Thika, Nairobi, and a few other towns.

Inevitably, the present movement of the gangs is leading to a crowding up of bad types against the towns. Menace moves nearer to the trim homes of the Europeans, the small, plain houses of the Africans.

That is the risk. Taking it, we may hope for a succession of gangs destroyed, and perhaps move quicker to the finish. After all, on our side is a total force of at least 30,000 whites and blacks operating with the Army, the police, and the Kikuyu loyalist guard.

The tank

IN the field we have ten men to their one. Alack! I am not persuaded by the arithmetic. The active killers are the tap-sputting terror somewhere every day. But look at the tank behind the tap! In it are perhaps three-quarters of a

million Kikuyu who have taken the Mau Mau oaths.

It matters not that many in the tank have done that unwillingly. To most Kikuyu an oath is an oath, whatever the consequences. And death by panga — pitilessly provided for the wobblers — kills what little scepticism there is over oath-taking.

And don't think that Mau Mau is short of cash. The spies and racketeers who run the panga business are experts in extortion. 15s. from every willing oath-swearer; 60s. and more for the unwilling. When funds run down, a blanket order goes out for "renewal oaths." Money on the nail.

Oh, yes, anyone who thinks of Mau Mau as a kind of liberation movement, misguided but sincere, is quite ignorant or quite crazy. Thugs at the top, dupes at the bottom. That's your Mau Mau.

Although their total of efficient automatic weapons, rifles, and shotguns is probably not more than 600, there is a pool and weapons are drawn as required.

Then, each gang has a number of home-made shotguns, and pangas, the Birmingham-made farm knives so deadly in the wrong hands.

Fanaticism

FINALLY, every gang has another weapon — a murderous fanaticism untrammelled by any reasoned-out program or objectives. Kill the European! Kill the African who has not sworn with us! Terribly simple.

This fanaticism plus the power of the oaths means that Mau Mau could go on for a long, long time.

Those few in Kenya who really know the Kikuyu say that they are capable of sudden dramatic changes. They believe that one fine day the coward oath-dupes of Mau Mau will pack it all up. How much I hope they are right!

**IS AN AIR HOSTESS
TOO OLD AT 32?**

(By JAMES WYNTER)

DOES an air hostess lose her ability if she loses her sex appeal? That is one of the big questions now being debated in the United States airlines business.

A supplementary question that is being asked is "Does a girl lose both at 32?"

It all began recently when one of the leading United States lines told 75 stewardesses over 32 that they must resign. Other airlines, seeing this "Atlantic" have been considering similar action.

between the airline concerned and the Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association.

The airline says the established qualifications of a Stewardess, pleasant disposition, even temperament, neatness, unmarried status, and ability and desire to meet and serve passengers.

"Basic among these qualifications is an attractive appearance," says the executives who add: "Such an appearance ordinarily is found to a higher degree in young women."

British airlines do not agree with the American duty and other crew members. "We have a duty to our passengers," says a British Airlines spokesman.

An official said: "We have several stewardesses in their thirties. There is an upper age limit of 27 on joining, but the question of asking any girl to resign on account of age has not arisen."

"We find they are more efficient when they are turned 30. By that time they have got a lot of experience of the job."

British Overseas Airways have an upper age limit of 35 for girls joining as stewardesses but they have no other age restriction. BOAC are constantly losing them before the age of 30 because they marry pilots.

"But we have some girls in their thirties," said an official.

**NATHANIEL
GUBBINS**

I AM able to reveal the identity of the ape-like woman who, with two ape-like men, has been frightening workers on rubber estates in Penak.

From the description given by the Chinese girl Wong Yee Moi, who said the woman had a fair skin, long protruding teeth, and spoke a funny language like a bird croaking, it seems clear that she is descended from the English aristocracy and still retains the accent which, to the uninitiated, sounds like a croak or a sharp bark.

According to other reports the woman, like the two men, wore a long moustache reaching to her knees. This leaves little doubt that she is the daughter, or granddaughter, of Agatha Stenchwaters, the hideous and rather brawny wife of the Earl of Gravy, who ran away with a rubber planter in 1899 and went native after an emotional disturbance.

The following flash-back tells what happened to Agatha in the Somerset Maugham country.

The scene is the living room of a bungalow on a rubber estate in 1899. It is midnight. Two Chinese servants chatter in a corner. Agatha is lying on a settee reading an old magazine and cursing the mosquitoes.

1st Servant: Pyong yang ting long pong ping.
2nd Servant: Yang yang tong ting ping pong.

(Capitane Stenchwaters reels in and yells to the servants for a whiskey and soda.)

Agatha: Drinkin' agen? Stenchwaters, looking at her with distaste: Anyone would drink if he were married to a woman who looks like a colonel in a cavalry regiment.

Agatha: You didn't hev to marry me.
Stenchwaters: How else could I get the money to pay off the mortgage on the estate?

Agatha: Eye am makin' another will tomorrow, eternally.
Stenchwaters: Like hell you are. (He draws his revolver and takes a pot shot at Agatha, missing her by inches.)

Agatha, without flinching. Dem bed shot.
(Cynthia, her low-cut evening dress, enters and runs into the arms of Stenchwaters.)

Cynthia: Darling. (Seeing Agatha) Oh!
Stenchwaters, putting revolver on a side table: Don't worry, darling. I nearly shot her just now.

Cynthia: And you missed? Oh, you silly, silly boy.
Stenchwaters, mumbling as he kisses her neck: Oh, you wonderful yum yum, gorgeous, ah you lovely yum yum yum.

Cynthia: Darling. (While they are in a clinch Agatha rises from the settee, picks up the revolver and shoots them both dead.)

Agatha: Dem good shots.
1st Servant: Pyong yang ting long pong ping.
2nd Servant: Yang yang tong ting ping pong.

(Agatha walks through the french windows into the moonlit garden, across the paddy fields beyond, past the tall corn of macarons, waving in the gentle breeze and through the semolina swamp until she comes to the lair of The Jungle Man who is waiting for her with open arms.)

Jungle Man: Oo ahh yah yum yum yum ahh grrr lovely oo ahh yum yum yum.
Agatha: Darling.

Gentlemen In Retirement

"HOWS the wife, old man?"

"Well, her temperature's gone down, old man, and she's feeling a bit peckish."

"They always do after about a week. They need a lot of nourishment when they're getting over it."

"Of course they do," old man. But the difficulty is to do all the housework, shopping and cooking, make her bed, keep her bedroom fire going, and fill her hot water bottles."

"Bottles, old man?"

"When she'll be always has two bottles. One at her feet and one at her back. Then she tosses and turns and thrums all the bedclothes on the floor."

"They're easily picked up, old man."

"Of course they are, old man. But you can't always be there to do it. Then she makes ages to get the bedclothes and blankets tied up in a knot."

"Well, that's quite easily adjusted, old man. Without getting her out of bed you lift her under the waist with one hand and pull the bed clothes straight with the other."

can lift 100 tons with your little finger."

"She doesn't weigh 100 tons, old man."

"I never said she did, old man. It's just a question of doing things the right way. Another cup of coffee, old man?"

"No thanks, old man. I have to go to the chemist to get her new prescription made up. Then I have to remember when she had her last dose of medicine. Then I have to start cooking her lunch, and I suppose the doctor will come when I'm in the middle of it."

"Doctors always come when you're cooking the lunch. What are you feeding her on, old man?"

"On Wednesday she had a bit of steamed fish and baked beans. On Thursday another bit of steamed fish and tinned peas. On Friday, as she was feeling better, a cutlet and baked beans and tinned peas."

"What have you got in your shopping bag for her today, old man?"

"A sliced steak, baked beans and tinned peas."

"Aren't you rather overdoing the beans and peas, old man?"

"I haven't the time to prepare and cook fresh vegetables, old man."

"Of course not, old man. But you might ring the changes with a tin of carrots or spinach."

"She doesn't happen to like carrots or spinach, old man."

"Well that's a pity, old man."

"Yes, old man. As a special treat today I'm starting her off with a tin of pea soup."

"Good heavens, old man."

"Why 'good heavens,' old man?"

"Oh just 'good heavens,' old man. Well I hope everything will be all right."

"I hope so. So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

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"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

"So long, old man."

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Speedy Play Isn't Always Timesaver

By OSWALD JACOBY

HAVE you ever seen the sort of player who will play the first card from the dummy before the entire dummy has been put down? This speedy play sometimes saves him as much as two or three seconds, but he gives it back immediately by going into a huddle over the second trick.

Before I go into the bloodcurdling tale of what happened to such a player, in today's hand, let me give you a bit of advice on handling partners of this kind. When you're opening lead, and put that suit down last, this compels the speed demon to see the whole hand before he makes his first play.

In today's hand, the bid beautifully to reach a laydown grand slam, but he neglected the precaution just described. When West overtook the third of clubs, North carelessly put his clubs down first of the dummy.

Before the first of the table, declarer had already played the low club from the dummy. He wanted that



"Nothing that costs that much should be described as an appetiser!"

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NORTH (U) 14
 ♠ A K
 ♥ A Q J
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ A

WEST
 ♠ 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ 10 9 8 7
 ♣ 10 9 8 7

EAST
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ 10 9 8 7
 ♣ 10 9 8 7

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 10 9 8 7
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ 10 9 8 7
 ♣ 10 9 8 7

North-South Vul.
 ♠ Pass
 ♥ Pass
 ♦ Pass
 ♣ Pass

Opening lead—♠ 3

CORN today, you men and women are apt to differ quite widely in the outward expression of character. If you men are aggressive, determined, and at times just plain stubborn. Once you get you feel into a mood, you will carry it through to the bitter end, come what may. You women have a similar drive, but with a determination, but it is likely to exert itself in the making of the home, such as managing your family and the like. You may appear calm, sweet—and even non-aggressive—but let someone cross you when it comes to a pet idea and the sparks will really fly. You have a well-controlled temper but know when to use it.

You men are natural mixers and would make good public relations experts, salesmen and politicians. You women have this gift in a lesser degree, for you are a little more

selective. You turn on your charm only for those you like. If you don't like a person, you can be aloof, even cold and unapproachable. New acquaintances might consider you a snob. Not that so much as a desire for a "wall and see" attitude to guide you when it comes to making new friends.

To find what the stars have in store for tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—If you have a new idea, examine it most carefully before you venture into such a thing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Close friends can bring you company whenever you are, perhaps this evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—Be positive that your dreams are worth making sacrifices for; then, if they are, make the supreme effort.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)—Bring your hopes nearer to reality by working hard toward some goal which you wish to see materialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)—Test all your ideas carefully today. You may find that some are not as practical as they should be.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—Working steadily rather than by fits and starts will accomplish a great deal right now.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—If you maintain an efficient pace on the job today, you will get much farther than you anticipated.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Make up your mind what you want and then go out after it; no holds need be barred in your fight!

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—There is a real chance of a serious error today, so think everything over carefully before you act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 23)—You must be cautious right now. A

DIARY FOR 1954
 May 2: Post-war credits to be taxed as unearned income.
 May 8: From today dogs must give up their seats in buses and trains to human beings during the rush hours.
 May 10: 63th session of the Big Four to decide on what order the representatives are to arrive at the meeting place, when such meeting place shall have been agreed upon.
 May 12: Purchase tax doubled on toy boomers, chocolate anchors, inscribed ashtrays, and neckties of mouse teeth.

A slight misunderstanding
 "I'll tell me more," said Rhoda, "about that yacht in the Greek ocean." "Yes, well, there she is," said Follenough. "It is in the yard." "Surely, surely," interrupted Rhoda, "you wouldn't be sailing in a yacht at night?" "No," said the Captain. "Then what are you the horse for?" "I mean, what are you the horse for?" "Oh, you mean you're on the running-path, like a horse?" "That's the idea," said Follenough. "Unless the horses were swimming and the towing ropes were in their mouths, you're pulling my leg again," said Rhoda. "And why have we to be loved at night?" "It's a Greek custom, honeyput, especially on the islands. They breed special yachts for tourists." "I never knew when you get serious about what you say," said Rhoda. "I often wonder about that myself," he said.

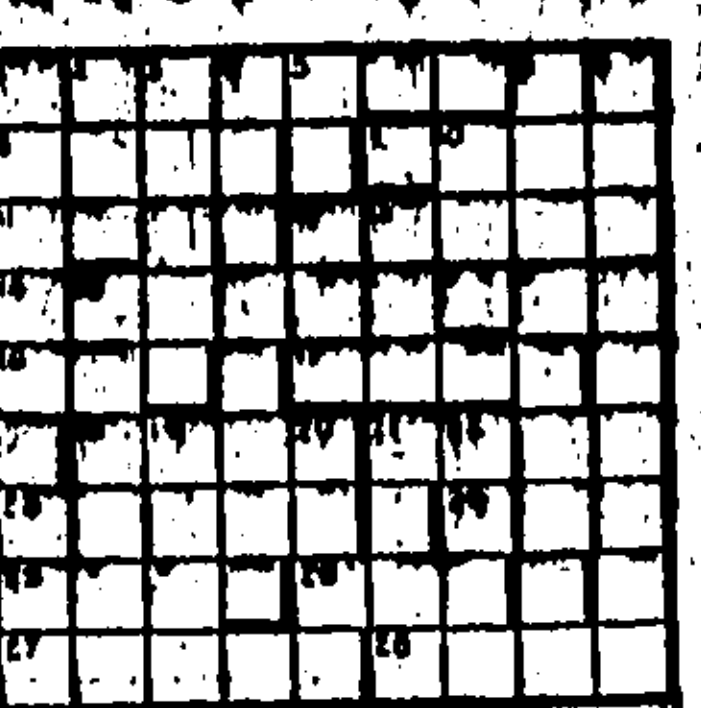
A nest of singing birds
 TWENTY-THREE tenors were trapped in a lift in New York the other day. They were pulled out one by one, and the last one, a tenor named Rhoda, was pulled out without a chorus. A commentator in touch with authoritative sources suggested that the tenors had been singing in the lift having sung out of the cast to join their mates.

CHESS PROBLEM
 By H. PROBERG
 Black, 13 pieces.

White, 9 pieces.
 While to play, mate in three.
 Solution: 1. Qxg7, 2. Qxg7, 3. Qxg7.

DUMB-BELLS
 WHY ARE YOU BROWING THAT WATCHED PEOPLE PICTURE IN THE CORNER OF HANGING THERE BEING GROWNING? SO MUCH SHOOTING AND BLOWING.

CROSSWORD



1. Run to die, the mother's third. (9)
 2. Welsh dish that isn't a bit sweet after all. (6)
 3. Between flower and ground. (4)
 4. We all have them, and they are sure to get you. (8)
 5. Old tale grow this. (8)
 6. A sound a very immobile paper seller. (9)
 7. Animal found disoriented in a down. (8)
 8. What's left at the end of a pencil that you could do to a toe. (4)
 9. Swampy bird. (4)
 10. You may find one in a club or an oil field. (4)
 11. This sort of it is lucky, they say. (4)
 12. Dutch prefix found on the roads. (3)
 13. It happened to Bo-peep's sheep. (4)
 14. Anger outside 1 Down. (3)
 15. Put up—good be sure it's straight. (8)
 16. Colour for a Coronation horse. (4)

Down
 1. I seal crib (anag.). (9)
 2. Find fault with a horse perhaps. (3)
 3. Four young oysters hurried up all eager for the (Carroll). (5)
 4. Limit—ending in a schoolmaster quality. (5)
 5. Queen patch in the sand? (4)
 6. A word for the kind of mix myself. (Walt Whitman). (9)
 7. There's a word for this sort of case on the balcony. (4)
 8. Colour in distance. (3)
 9. The same infant both ways. (3)
 10. His vacation comes second in his vacation. (4)
 11. Gouty cherry stone. (6)
 12. You'll have to dig deep for a metal like this. (4)
 13. His idea of fun. (4)
 14. More of this below the water. (4)
 15. Change of side at the Oval. (4)

SOLUTION TO CHECK YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

Across
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WHAT'S HIS LINE?
MR. STAN GRAEME
 Re-arrange the letters to spell his occupation.
 (Solution on Page 10)

WOMANSENSE

Fancy Pants For At-Home



By GRACE THORNCLEFFE

TAPERED pants of black velvet provide the perfect foil for a cheery, cherry-red cashmere sweater that's luxuriously embroidered at the yoke in pearls and sequins. Linking the two is a jewelled belt that slips through loops on the pants. There are three buttons at the ankles. A beautiful at-home twosome.

Household Hint
 Ash trays should be washed daily. Merely wiping them out with a moist cloth won't rid them of their stale odour.

BALMAIN SPLASHES THE BLUES IN HIS SPRING COLLECTION

By EILEEN ASCROFT

PARIS. THE spring theme song running through the Paris dress shows is the blues—the blue of lupins; of smiling skies and tropical seas; of sapphires and aquamarines; of blue birds, parrots and kingfishers.

The kind of blue that every man dreams of seeing his wife wearing. The shade of navy, with just that touch of white, that makes every woman look her best.

Pierre Balmain chose all these for a collection of soft feminine easy-to-wear clothes that were pretty rather than elegant.

For day time, too, he used the most delicate of rose pink, cerise and clear glistening white. For late day wear a galaxy of floral printed shantung dresses with matching coat patterned with hydrangeas, roses, lilacs and wisteria and midnight blue laces and chiffons.

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STRAIGHT, NARROW

Coats are straight and narrow in general, growing fuller towards evening, but there are still many models with small waists and small skirts. Flared collars and large mortaring are interesting features.

Accessories include umbrellas with "hobnail boot" handles, or horse-heads with real bristled canes; wide satin cummerbunds; ladybirds and butterfly hatpins; huge cotton beach skirts embroidered with coarse gold braid and white cotton trows encrusted with jet.

Jewellery idea is a small satin Eton collar, which matches the dress and serves as a background for a jewelled necklace.

—(London Express Service)

Words of the Wise

Giving presents is a talent; to know what a person wants, to know when and how to get it, to give it lovingly, and well. Unless a character possesses this talent, there is no moment more annihilating to one than that in which a present is received and given. —(Lady Pamela Wyndham)

We can do without any article of luxury we have never had; but when once obtained, it is not in human nature to surrender it voluntarily. —(Thomas Chandler Haliburton)

Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so. —(Lord Chesterfield)

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Blinky Mole's Wintertime Life

—He's Happy in His Cozy Underground Home—

By MAX TRELL

IT was a cold winter's day. Knarf and Handi, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, went to visit their friend Blinky Mole in his underground house near the stump of the old apple tree.

The door to Blinky's house was almost covered with snow, but Knarf and Handi managed to find the door bell and soon Blinky was letting them in. He greeted them warmly. He was wearing flannel pyjamas with a big, woollen bathrobe over it and thick, felt slippers on his feet.

"Come in, my dears," he said. "It's pleasant to have company on such an unpleasant day. You'll find it pleasant in my parlour, I hope."

To the Parlour
 Then he led them down a short flight of stairs, then along a long, winding hallway lit up by glow-worms until finally they reached his parlour.

It was really more than pleasant for a bright fire was blazing in the fireplace, and the wind and snow were far over their heads. "Sit down," Blinky said. "Make yourselves comfortable. I'm just having my breakfast. Will you join me?"

Then Blinky served Knarf and Handi and himself with hot cocoa and little muffins, sprinkled with cinnamon and nuts.

"You know," Blinky said, "I son of looked forward to the wintertime. I also look forward to the springtime. In fact, come to think of it, I'm always looking forward to something or other. But the wintertime is almost the pleasantest thing I can look forward to."

Diary for 1954
 May 2: Post-war credits to be taxed as unearned income.
 May 8: From today dogs must give up their seats in buses and trains to human beings during the rush hours.
 May 10: 63th session of the Big Four to decide on what order the representatives are to arrive at the meeting place, when such meeting place shall have been agreed upon.
 May 12: Purchase tax doubled on toy boomers, chocolate anchors, inscribed ashtrays, and neckties of mouse teeth.

A slight misunderstanding
 "I'll tell me more," said Rhoda, "about that yacht in the Greek ocean." "Yes, well, there she is," said Follenough. "It is in the yard." "Surely, surely," interrupted Rhoda, "you wouldn't be sailing in a yacht at night?" "No," said the Captain. "Then what are you the horse for?" "I mean, what are you the horse for?" "Oh, you mean you're on the running-path, like a horse?" "That's the idea," said Follenough. "Unless the horses were swimming and the towing ropes were in their mouths, you're pulling my leg again," said Rhoda. "And why have we to be loved at night?" "It's a Greek custom, honeyput, especially on the islands. They breed special yachts for tourists." "I never knew when you get serious about what you say," said Rhoda. "I often wonder about that myself," he said.

A nest of singing birds
 TWENTY-THREE tenors were trapped in a lift in New York the other day. They were pulled out one by one, and the last one, a tenor named Rhoda, was pulled out without a chorus. A commentator in touch with authoritative sources suggested that the tenors had been singing in the lift having sung out of the cast to join their mates.

CHESS PROBLEM
 By H. PROBERG
 Black, 13 pieces.

White, 9 pieces.
 While to play, mate in three.
 Solution: 1. Qxg7, 2. Qxg7, 3. Qxg7.

DUMB-BELLS
 WHY ARE YOU BROWING THAT WATCHED PEOPLE PICTURE IN THE CORNER OF HANGING THERE BEING GROWING? SO MUCH SHOOTING AND BLOWING.



Blinky was wearing pyjamas and a big woollen bathrobe.

"Winter's a wonderful time!" Earlie Worm said to Knarf and Handi. "I agree with Blinky about that. No digging to do—no robins to worry about—nothing to bother about at all."

"Just take it easy," said Blinky.

CHARLTON v. WEST BROMWICH



Heath, the West Bromwich goalie, is greatly harassed by Hurst, Charlton's right winger, as he endeavours to clear while Ayre, of Charlton, and two West Bromwich defenders await the result of the tussle. The game ended in a one-all draw.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Joe Carr Voted Golfer Of The Year By British Writers

Joe Carr, the Irish amateur player, has been voted "Golfer of the Year" by the Association of British Golf Writers. The writers adjudged that Carr, who beat American holder Harvie Ward in the final of the Amateur Championship at Hoylake, and represented Britain in the Walker Cup, is the golfer who did most for the British game in 1953.

Second choice was Bernard Hunt, the young Hartsbourne Country Club assistant who headed the list of winners in big tournaments, gained his Ryder Cup place and halved his singles with American Dave Douglas.

Henry Cotton, Britain's Ryder Cup captain and Fred Daly, who won his singles and doubles against the Americans, were voted equal third.

"NOT GOOD ENOUGH"

T. L. Taylor, president of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, had some harsh things to say about Yorkshire players at the club's annual general meeting in Sheffield. He told them that a keener spirit on the field should be shown next season.

Referring to last season's playing results—the county's worst since 1892—Mr Taylor said: "It is felt that better results could have been obtained if the catching and fielding had been up to the standard which we expect from a Yorkshire side. It was below it...our bowling also was not good enough."

Fred Davis, the holder, will meet Walter Donaldson in the final of this season's World

Match Play Professional Snooker Tournament at Manchester, from March 1-6. They have met in all the seven finals played since the event was re-instituted after the war in the 1948-7 season. Fred Davis has won the title five times and the last time Donaldson was successful was in 1950.

Johnny Williams, former British Heavyweight Champion, is now one of Germany's top box office attractions. This follows his knockout victory over Gerhard Hecht and, as a result, he is to have more fights there.

In March he plans to meet Heinz Neuhäus, the European Champion, at Dortmund. The two have met twice before, both times at Dortmund. On the first occasion, in October 1951, the result was a draw. In the return, last February, Neuhäus won by a ninth-round knockout.

12 WANTED

The South African Football Association want to buy 12 top English footballers. They will be loaned out to the 12 league clubs in the Union, teamed up to play against the various provinces and the national side, and used as coaches for the league clubs and schools.

Wages will be around £15 per week—the top rate in England during the playing season—and the prospects of a job on the side is thrown in as an added attraction.

Also in the wanted column of the South African FA is a British referee to control the tests against Harari and Israel and to pass on the go, that makes British refereeing the best in the world.

Buhumil Vana, the great Czechoslovakian player who took over from Victor Barna as the world's outstanding table tennis player, is to retire from the international scene.

At 35 he considers he is not up to strain of the top-class game. Perhaps the most colour-

ful of all the champions, Vana's whole-hearted play will be sorely missed by spectators the world over.

Four performances by British athletes last year have been accepted as world records by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Men's performances are Gordon Pirie's Six Miles in 28min. 19.4sec. and the 6,000 Metres Relay time of 15min 27.2sec. by Pirie, Dunkley, Law and Nankeville.

Two women's relay performances, the 3 x 800 yards in 6min. 49sec. by N. Smalley, D. Leather and M. Sloman and the 4 x 220 yards in 1min. 39.9sec. by A. Pashley, J. Newbould, S. Hampton and A. Johnson have also been accepted.

Pirie's time for the six miles was beaten by Emil Zatopek in November, when he clocked 28min. 8.4sec. and this record has also been accepted.

BANNISTER TOO BUSY

Roger Bannister, Britain's faster mile runner, is invited to run in the Benjamin Franklin Mile in Philadelphia, on April 24, is unlikely to accept.

Bannister, a St. Mary's Hospital student who won the event in 1951, said, "I have a great amount of work to do during the next two or three months which may prevent me from taking such a trip."

He added that he has had a private invitation to take part in medical research while in the United States.

Arsenal will meet the Brazilian side, Sao Paulo, at Highbury on February 20. Arsenal are without a League game that day because their intended opponents, Preston, are playing a fifth round Cup tie.

This will be the first occasion a side from Brazil has visited Britain. Sao Paulo are a powerful side, one of the best in the world of South America.

(London Express Service)

SWEDES GIVE LOCAL FANS THEIR MONEY'S WORTH IN INSTRUCTIVE TENNIS

By "ARGONAUT"

Opening the two-day exhibition series in Hongkong at the Hongkong Cricket Club yesterday with two singles matches, Sweden's top-ranking tennis ace and recently-crowned All-Asian Singles Champion, Lennart Bergelin, edged out local champion K. H. Ip by 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 while Swedish Davis Cupper S. Stockenberg drew with K. C. Dao, 7-5 and 4-6.

The soft and slippery condition of the court made it difficult for superlative tennis to be played but despite these setbacks the visitors gave one of the Colony's biggest turnouts their full money's worth in instructive and scientific tennis.

Both Stockenberg and Bergelin play in almost identical style in handling the racket, strokes and tactics.

Both possess a strong serve and are exceptionally strong on the forehand, scoring frequently from this point with tremendous flat-racket cross-court passing drives or vicious cross-volleys.

The backhand, which is executed by both of them without any change of the grip, carries a lot of slice with it and except for point-winning drop cross-volleys and short passing shots is mainly exploited for defence and manoeuvring the ball to just over the centre-line of the opposing court, forcing a return to their forehand where their accurate half-volley from the three-quarter court and ability to add extra reach to seemingly passing winners with a late forward lunge enable them not only to cover that part of the court like a blanket but also to repeatedly turn defence into attack.

Bergelin is much the steeper of the two and shows more finesse and accuracy in the execution of every stroke.

Though troubled by the very slow court, the Swedish ace in his three-set match against Ip yesterday gave a fine exhibition of all-round strokes and at times glimpses of the form for

which he has been acclaimed as one of the greatest stroke players in the world today.

His points came neither from his service nor from any exceptional strength in any department of the game but from a combination of sound all-round ground strokes, volleys, overhead smashes and court craft.

STARTED SLOWLY

Bergelin started slowly in his match against Ip and, playing from the base throughout the whole set, passed Ip repeatedly with forehand drives that carried as much pace as accuracy. From 3-0 Bergelin carried his lead to 3-1, 6-2, and 6-3 to win the first set in 22 minutes.

Ip recovered by holding his opening service with a love game in the second set and as Bergelin relaxed his play, went on to lead 3-0.

Bergelin began to follow up his services with net play for the first time in the fourth game in the second set on his service, but found Ip in brilliant form with his passing shots.

From 15-15, Ip forged ahead to 30-15 when Bergelin double-faulted for the first time in the match, and clinched the game with two spectacular backhand side-line passing drives to lead by 4-0.

Scoring frequently with delicate drop shots, Ip took the fifth game by 60-50. Bergelin made a strong effort to regain the initiative and succeeded in holding his service game after deuce was called. Ip's drops and passing shots, however, carried him through the seventh game to give him the set by 6-1.

Bergelin put more power and speed into his game as the third set began but could not find touch with his first services.

Ip broke through Bergelin's opening service, only to see his opponent, now playing an attractive all-round game, draw level at 1-1.

Bergelin held his next service game after four deuces to lead by 2-1 and went ahead to take the next game by 60-30.

Another double-fault and errors on Bergelin's part cost him the fifth game, but the next

game saw Bergelin back into a commanding 4-2 lead. Ip rallied back strongly to take the seventh game but could not hold the visiting ace from winning the next two games each by 60-30 to clinch the set and match by 6-3.

THE SCORES

S. Stockenberg drew with K. C. Dao, 7-5, 4-6.
L. Bergelin beat K. H. Ip, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

TODAY'S GAMES

(3.15 p.m. at HKCC or 8 p.m. at Macpherson Playground).
L. Bergelin v. V. T. Wang (one set).
S. Stockenberg v. K. H. Ip (one set).
L. Bergelin v. S. Stockenberg (one set).
S. Stockenberg and L. Bergelin v. K. H. Ip and Edwin Tsai (best of three sets).

COLONY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Only five instead of eight Colony championship matches will be played today.

These are:
S. Sadi v. E. Saubole, C. C. Kuo v. F. Ma, C. C. Tsou v. T. Lo, C. S. Cheng v. W. K. Chung, R. M. Macpherson and P. L. Holmes v. G. B. Smart and E. Zukut.

The following three matches have been postponed:

K. H. Ip v. R. MacLachlan (to be played tomorrow).
K. P. Lee v. K. C. Dao (to be played at a later date).
P. Simon v. V. T. Wang (to be played at a later date).

Figure Skating Championship

Oalo, Feb. 16. Last year's World Champion in figure skating for men, Hayes Alan Jenkins of the United States, today led in the compulsory figure skating in the World Championship being held here.

Results of today's compulsory figures for the first three men were:

1. Hayes Alan Jenkins (US), 514.1 points—8 placing points.
2. James Grogan (US), 514.2.
3. Alain Giletti (France), 499.2-16.

After the results of today's competition, Jenkins most probably will get a new world championship in figure skating. Grogan, who has one-tenth of a point more than Jenkins, told the United Press that he would not be able to win the championship as he did not have enough training in free skating to beat Jenkins.

Grogan is now serving with the U.S. Army and does not have the same good conditions for training as Jenkins, who has his own trainer.—United Press.

Maximum Winners In Football Pool

A 23-year-old motor driver and a 65-year-old nurse each won the maximum of £75,000 this week in a football pool.

The driver, Mr. G. Lewis of Ashford, Middlesex, has just found a couple of rooms in preparation for his wedding to 19-year-old Rita Dodd.

The nurse, Mrs. E. Boston, works at a private nursing home at Brighton, south coast resort. Her husband is 64.—China Mail Special.

TOMMY ATKINS'

Army Sports Parade

Top spot in the Tommy Atkins Army Sports Parade this week is shared by two golfers. They are 2/Lt. M. R. Keeling of the Royal Signals, whose brilliant achievement of winning both the Combined Services and the Army Golf Championships at Farnham last week-end makes him the outstanding performer of the week, and Captain D. A. Kennedy, whose hole-in-one at the 190-yard fourth hole on the New course wins him the bottle of whisky which was handed over to me to be presented to the first of our golfers to accomplish this exciting feat. Congratulations, Captain Kennedy.

The bottle is being forwarded to the Secretary of the Army Golf Association with a request that he pass it on to the winner.

'SILENCE' RULE

I have received a most interesting letter from a boxing enthusiast who asks me if I can explain the fact that when the Welsh Regt. Boxing Team was in action against the boxers from HMS Birmingham in the recent tournament at the Royal Fleet Club, 'Silence' during boxing rule was not enforced.

The writer said that he had been prevented from going to the show but had listened to the broadcast commentary and was astonished at the noise during the actual bouts.

The facts are, of course, accurate. I was at the show and I too was surprised that very little attempt was made to curb the audience during the actual fighting, and I understand that several Army boxing enthusiasts were somewhat perturbed about the whole incident.

I agree fully with the fact that the 'Silence' rule should be strictly enforced during fighting and I believe that when Army boxers are invited to take part in inter-services competitions, should be asked to enforce the rule as a qualification of the acceptance. Noise during the rounds is grossly unfair to the boxer.

TACTICS WON

One of the big surprises of the RAMC Athletic Meeting at Boundary Street yesterday was the defeat of the well drilled Tug-of-War team from 18 Field Ambulance by the less fancied team from FDS.

Actually this was not so much a battle of teams as a battle of coaches. Capt Bowen had trained his Field Ambulance team to a fine pitch but he was out-guessed and outmanoeuvred by QMS Webster who gave his team the call to "heave" at the exact moment the opponents' right feet were raised. The QMS tactics were excellent and his team collected the cup after two straight pulls.

The Army soccer players are becoming used to being involved in controversy. Recently centre-forward Bennett was the central figure in the incident in the Hongkong Selection. Kooze Goldclub game when he landed in the back of the net and remained there while a goal was scored, only to see it chalked off by the referee.

On Saturday in the Army-Navy game the incident was repeated in almost every detail, only this time it was Reeves who was in the back of the net when Bennett scored. But once again the goal was disallowed.

The Royal Norfolk are well on the way to retaining the Land Forces Inter-Unit Squash Championships. They have again fought their way into the final and after the fine display they gave against the Royal Engineers it will take a very strong team to deprive them of the premier honour.

By defeating AA Workshops REME, 137 (Java) HAA Bly. RA, have surmounted one of the most important obstacles in their effort to win Zone 1 of the Minor Units Soccer League. With only one more game to play the Gunners still have a 100 per cent record and I hear that they are quite confident that they can preserve the record in the last game.

BOXING DATE

The next important date on the boxing calendar is Thursday, February 18, when the 1st Dorset meet 1st Royal Norfolk in the semi-final of the Land Forces Inter-Unit Team Championships.

In addition to the team match it is hoped to stage two special bouts as eliminations for the FARELF Individual Championships. These contests will set Bdr. Baker, 20 Fd. Regt. RA against Pte. Robinson of 1st King's in a light welterweight bout, and Gnr. Postle, 14th Fd. Regt. RA against either Sgt. Bibby or Pte. Edge of 1st King's in a heavyweight match.

The second semi-final between 1st Welch and 1st King's will take place at Queen's Hill on Tuesday, February 20.

The date for the final will depend on which team wins the first semi-final. If the 1st Dorset win the final will take place on March 2, but if the Royal Norfolk win the final will take place on March 3, both at Queen's Hill.

Championship have now been played but the match between 1st King's and 1st Dorset is still outstanding and both the competition proper and the plate competition are held up until this game is played off.

Army soccer enthusiasts are delighted at the selection of left-half Stevens to captain the Combined Services team against the Hongkong Chinese at the Club Stadium this afternoon.

It is hoped that Stevens, who sails for the United Kingdom on Sunday next, will be available to play his last game for the Army against St. Joseph's on Saturday. This game could be a very special one for Stevens as he will pretty certainly find himself pitted against his old Army colleague and fellow countryman, Nash, who was recently transferred from the Army to St. Joseph's.

The final of the FARELF Rugby Championship between 1st Welch and the 1st Regt. will take place at Singapore on Monday, March 8.

Army football referees are reminded that the monthly meeting of the Hongkong Referees Association will take place in the "Forum" of the NAAFI Club in Chatham Road at 7 p.m. tonight.

The next examination for Army referees will take place at Stanley on Monday, February 22 at 6.30 p.m.

ATHLETIC DATES

1st Dorset and 1st Welch are now through to the final of the Land Forces Athletic Championships by reason of their being placed first and second respectively in the 27 Brigade meeting.

Dates for other elimination events are as follows:—

38 Bdr. at Sek Kong on Feb. 19 and 20.
HQ RA at Boundary Street on Feb. 19 and 20.
HK and Kin. Gm. on Feb. 22 and 24.

The Finals of the Minor Unit Championships will take place on Friday, February 26 and the Major Unit Championships will be decided on Saturday, February 27. Competition will start at 10.30 a.m. on both days.

Fine wins at the week-end place the Army cricketers in an almost impregnable position at the top of the League tables and it seems that only a major collapse could rob them of the title. The victory of the 'A' team was particularly satisfying as they had to take the field without star bowlers Dowling and Fargotter.

The Army-Navy rugby match in the Pentangular Tournament produced some exciting play and the soldiers' victory by 13 points to nil puts them in a very strong position in the competition.

One of the features of the game was the fine play of the Army backs whose early success laid the foundation for the ultimate victory. Eyo and Annandale were other players who caught the eye.

SNIPPETS: Army soccer players come and go... new centre-forward Palmer arrived and 'B' team goalkeeper Cliff joins Stevens on the HMT 'George' on Sunday next... Army boxers will be pleased to hear that the Royal Navy is planning an all-star boxing show to be held early in March. It is the intention to invite the best of all three services to take part. A sign of the times. Work has now begun in preparation for the opening of the military swimming baths.

McKenley Creates A Unique Double

McKenley, Feb. 16. Herb McKenzie of Jamaica established a unique double tonight when he broke the 70-second professional 440 yards record with a time of 47.3 seconds.

The former Olympic runner is the first man to break both the amateur and professional world records for the same distance. He set the former world amateur quarter-mile record of 46 seconds in 1948.

McKenley, 24, is a Jamaican who has been training in England since he arrived in 1951. He is now a professional and has won several races in the past few months.



NEW TERRITORIES

FANLING UN LONG & SHEUNG SHUI DISTRICTS.

THE CHINA MAIL

is now obtainable from the **SHEUNG SHUI STATION STALL**, SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

Orders Accepted Deliveries Undertaken.

THE GAMBOLS...

by Barry Appleby



POINT 20

IT TOOK 5 YEARS TO PERFECT

A £50 Million Refinery Is Growing Out Of This Desert



Native workers excavating for foundations alongside the cooling water lines at Aden.

The New Anglo-Iranian Refinery Is Going Up:

You Can Earn A Fortune At "Little Aden" If You Don't Mind Heat

Christopher Astwood, the author of this article, visited Aden last year after he and four other Cambridge University undergraduates had completed an expedition to Lake Tana, Ethiopia. In this article he describes his experiences trying to get a job at the new Anglo-Iranian £50 million refinery which is rapidly taking shape at Aden following the closing down of the Abadan refinery. He also describes some of the work going on and life at the refinery. He says "Little Aden" the site of the Anglo-Iranian installation is "a masterpiece of enterprise." The refinery itself is expected to be completed by the end of this year after only 27 months' work. By then the pipelines will be handling five million tons of crude oil a year.

Aden Town is set on a peninsula cum island, making the best of what flatland there is below the craggy hills. One half of the town sprawls along the fringe of Aden Bay on a coastal strip not more than a few hundred yards wide, with a few houses and offices bravely clinging to the rock half slopes seeking what breeze there might be in the hottest time of the year.

There is the Crater town (literally a town within a crater) where the peoples of the former half migrated during the war to escape enemy shelling. But many found that after one hot day in the Crater, enemy shells and oblivion were more acceptable.

Aden port itself is a thriving entrepot and refuelling station where retail prices in the shops fluctuate with the nationality of the passenger liner currently refuelling—never buy that "surprisingly cheap" camera when the Stars and Stripes can be seen at the masthead—for it will be half the price tomorrow when the ship has departed.

I spent nine days in Aden. On landing at the airport the immigration authorities demanded £100 deposit to justify my entry. Five Ethiopian dollars was all I had, however, but they were kind about it; I was told to report to them within three days as to my movements and they offered me a further seven days should I still be undecided. After that time, the Government was offering to pay for my keep and passage home, to be paid back in installments at a later date. With all this solicitude for my well-being behind me and no fear of the future, I decided to look for work.

When I was in Asmara, I was told a fabulous tale of Aden—a paradise where one could earn £20 a week, have air-conditioned quarters, and the best food in Arabia. Where was it to be found but at the new oil refinery the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company was building. The only snag was the 18 months' contract one had to sign. However that was simply overcome apparently, for only last year three South African students had arrived on the site, having travelled up from Capetown in a sampan, and demanded work.

At that time, any able-bodied body was welcome to help build the new refinery, no matter how green he was. So one of them was employed in the stores, and the others digging ditches. That went on for ten months and then suddenly after one pay-day they were posted "missing"—and nothing more was seen of them.

They are now comfortably reclining in various universities in England with their booty—£800 a head—for they were strong-minded enough not to drink it all while in Aden. With perhaps the same idea in mind I thought I would try my luck. But I was "out" as the first attempt; the "early gates"

were well guarded by husky Arab police who refused to believe that all I wanted was to call on one of their doctors who had told me of this promised land. Anyway, they could not speak English.

That night after pouring out my troubles to a Scotsman who spent his life delivering vessels of all types to anywhere in the world, I decided to go ashore from the ship I was staying on. It was two o'clock in the morning. I saw a police launch passing and I hailed it. There was a rapid fire of cross-questioning which lasted some ten minutes and I found I was speaking to the Chief of the Harbour Police, at the time in full evening dress and flanked by lovely ladies also in evening dress. Having decided I was not "the suspect seaman" who had dragged him away from his "excellent party," he was all apologies and invited me to a beach party at Little Aden, the refinery, the following Sunday. His apologies were accepted—for the party gates were open and it was now up to me.

That Sunday and the ensuing days were an eye-opener to me. Having seen the Americans add two square miles to Bermuda's 10½ square miles in just over ten months in building their air and naval bases, I have always credited them with being the eighth wonder of the world in the engineering field. But Britain's Little Aden was a masterpiece of enterprise.

BLEAK DESERT

In December 1952, across Aden Bay from Aden Town there was a corner of bleak desert and salt pans with 200ft jagged crags protruding from it. In 12 months an offending 100 ft high hill was demolished and the debris was used to reclaim the salt pans and generally raise the land above sea level. A few months later, a thriving oil town construction community arose and some 7,000 persons were housed in air-conditioned rooms or, if married, houses with all "mod. cons" including refrigerators. All the comforts of man are more or less provided. There is a cleaning and dyeing works, water and sewage system, a power system with generators capable of supplying Aden Town as well; this was only temporary, as I was told, though it looked no more temporary than Battersea power station.

There was also a hospital built on ultra-modern lines set off from the refinery on the reverse slope of a hill overlooking an inviting beach. There one could recline with all the aches, breaks and pains imaginable, for a large and extremely competent staff of European and Indian, with all the most up to date equipment, is in constant attendance. Their biggest headache is the Arab employees who would live there right down to the beach and with their wives, getting less and with fewer. On the recreational side there is almost everything one could

hockey, tennis, basketball, swimming, table tennis, billiards, darts, "shove hopeny" and a large brick and glass-plate communal hall where a vast quantity of beer may be consumed. The latter four are far and away the most popular of the recreational outlets.

THE ICE-MAN

Out of this arises the question of ice, an essential commodity in a community that is constantly seeking cool refreshment. Although "Little Aden" has its own cold storage unit capable of holding enough meat and vegetables for its own requirements, the actual blocks of ice for day to day use are brought from the local ice manufacturers. This creates a problem for it entails bringing the precious commodity in from Aden Town along a route lined with local "Spivs" offering good shillings, and enough to make it worth while, for a lump of ice. After several lumps of ice had "melted away" in this fashion the job was given to an Englishman to drive the truck into town at 4 a.m., pick up the ice and deliver it to the refreshment centres by six; once this was completed he had the morning free and should no further orders be received for ice, he had the rest of the day off until the following morning!

This was another simple but essential and lucrative (£20 a week) form of employment that was available there.

Having built up a picture of reasonable comfort and remuneration, however, I shall now have to explode some of it.

The working hours are long and hard, for these jobs are not so extraordinary as the ice-man. The clock is worked around in two ten-hour shifts with four hours set aside for maintenance to vehicles and machinery. Pipe hauling, cracker-erecting, dock building, issuing supplies, and even administration are exacting tasks in 90 to 110 degrees F. Through this perpetual heat and an ever present dust haze, work must progress smoothly, for one delay starts a chain reaction all along the line. From the technician, to the labourer there is little chance of relaxation during his ten hours and at the end of it, should he feel fit for some form of entertainment in the evening, there is little except the bar, which is no little object, to but it does become monotonous. There are some who at the day's end collapse exhausted into bed, and so begin another day somewhat refreshed. The form of recreation is to have something to offer in return to anyone who subjects himself to it. Cash return provides the greatest draw to most people but to some even the very largest cash return would not be compensation enough for working in such a limiting environment. "Aden" may be a paradise, but it is a very different one from the one that is seen through the "early gates"

Cows Given Wine

Beirut, Feb. 16. Lebanon cows in mountain villages of the Lebanon were given hot wine and vegetable soup mixed with brandy today on the fourth successive day of bitter cold.—China Mail Special.

Why Russia Wants Tankers From The West

London, Feb. 16. The Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. Ivan Kabanov, is willing to place orders in western shipyards for five oil tankers of 15,000 to 16,000 tons. This disclosure was made in the course of the recent visit to Moscow by a group of British businessmen.

Experts in the tanker business consider the Soviet decision to build up their tanker fleet is a direct consequence of the embargo placed by United Nations powers on trade in strategic materials with China.

The Soviets require tankers to carry oil from Black Sea ports to Vladivostok, on the Pacific Coast. The British Ministry of Transport, which controls tanker charters, will license hirings for this voyage, but not for a call at the intermediate port of Dalny, in Manchuria.

In accordance with the United Nations agreement they will not allow oil shipments to Chinese ports.

NOT ALLOWED

Because they consider that a stop at Dalny is necessary on the Black Sea to Vladivostok voyage the Soviets are building a tanker fleet of their own.

According to British businessmen who have returned from Moscow, they now have a fleet of 22 tankers. None of them are larger than 16,000 tons, this being the largest tonnage that can be accommodated in the Black Sea ports.

Shipbuilders here do not expect to be allowed to tender for the Soviet tanker orders. The British authorities have recently authorised the building of fishing trawlers for the Soviet, but this decision was given with some reluctance and the licensing of tankers or cargo ships is not expected until a general move is made to modify the United Nations' strategic embargo.—Router.

CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET

Chicago, Feb. 16. Grain prices continued to move downward on the board of trade today as markets shared about equally in the decline.

Reports of moisture over the southwest winter wheat belt and the five-day forecast calling for additional scattered showers over parts of the area brought most of the selling in the bread cereal.

New crop wheat contracts bore the brunt of the selling with more nearby months meeting some export covering. Yugoslav and Antwerp took grain overnight.

Yugoslavia purchased an estimated 330,000 bushels of red wheat and limited amounts were taken by Antwerp. With the overnight sale Yugoslav has bought the total to 1,344,000 bushels since late last week. Exporters said that the country still has a balance of 672,000 bushels to buy against its original programme.—United Press.

Chicago, Feb. 16. Prices per bushel in cents: Closing Prices

Wheat, No. 2, red	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, hard	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, soft	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, white	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, yellow	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, green	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, black	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, blue	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, purple	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, pink	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, brown	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, grey	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, white	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, yellow	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, green	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, black	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, blue	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, purple	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, pink	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, brown	17 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, grey	17 1/2

TRADE AND COMMERCE SECTION

JAPAN FACING "BAD YEAR" FOR SHIPPING

Less Work For Shipyards

Tokyo, Feb. 16. Representatives of the Japanese shipbuilding industry and merchant marine expect 1954 to be "a very bad business year." Japanese pessimism over world shipping and the shipbuilding recession has been aggravated by a recent Government announcement that subsidies to the shipbuilding industry would be cut.

Under the 4-year programme mapped out last year, Japanese shipyards were to build 300,000 gross tons of shipping for domestic owners every year. Because of the cut in subsidies, the yards are not likely to build more than 200,000 gross tons by the end of this year.

A spokesman for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, one of Japan's "Big Four" shipping companies, said: "Most Japanese ships, particularly those on the Pacific run, were built after the war and are of good quality. But more are needed."

The spokesman added that Japan is now in a position in which she has to hire ships from other countries. Before World War II, the could earn foreign exchange by carrying cargoes of other countries' goods. Japan's present ocean-going ships total 2,600,000 gross tons compared with the pre-war peak of 3,750,000 gross tons in 1937.

Many companies would like to expand their freight services to pre-war level, but lack of ships together with increasing competition in the international market, have restricted expansion plans.

Larger companies are trying to meet increasing competition from small Japanese owners at home, and, at the same time, maintain membership in various freight conferences overseas.

Some of Japan's leading companies complain that while they

have been operating at freight rates set by the Europe-East Freight Conference, of which both are members, their rivals, which has been increasing business by charging lower rates. These three are the only Japanese companies at present running ships to Europe, although eight companies are operating between Japan and the United States west coast ports.

Old, pre-war companies, like the Mitsui, Nippon Yusen, and Nippon Yusen Kaisha, are still the leaders of the industry in Japan. But newer, smaller companies are growing fast. One of these, the Kokusai Kaisha, has announced plans to run a new service to Europe in co-operation with two Belgian and two West German shipping firms.

According to a Company spokesman, the establishment of this service would be the forerunner to a company programme for world-wide expansion and including the opening of services to African and South American ports.

The new European service will be started with two ships a month, calling at Manila, Singapore, Suez, Alexandria, Bremen, Hamburg and Amsterdam.

GREATER COMPETITION

A Transport Ministry spokesman said that the Japanese shipping and shipbuilding industries expect greater competition from the United States, Britain and West Germany during the coming year.

There are 60 major shipbuilding companies in Japan, 20 of which are engaged on constructing ocean-going vessels. During 1954, these companies hope to build an estimated 200,000 gross tons for home shippers and another 100,000 gross tons for overseas buyers.


The estimated tonnage of ships completed in 1953, both for domestic owners and for exports, is the highest since the war. Most orders were executed during the first half of the year, however, and were a backlog from the boom days of 1950-52.

The following are figures issued by the Transport Ministry, showing the tonnage completed each year since 1950. (All figures in thousands of gross tons):

1950—307 (98 exported); 1951—323 (20 exported); 1952—341 (185 exported); 1953—An estimated total of 26 (238 exported).—China Mail Special.

New York Metal Futures

New York, Feb. 16. 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Cobalt Feb. 11.50; Nickel Feb. 11.50; Copper Feb. 11.50; Zinc Feb. 11.50; Tin Feb. 11.50; Lead Feb. 11.50; Silver Feb. 11.50; Gold Feb. 11.50; Platinum Feb. 11.50; Palladium Feb. 11.50; Rhodium Feb. 11.50; Iridium Feb. 11.50; Osmium Feb. 11.50; Selenium Feb. 11.50; Tellurium Feb. 11.50; Bismuth Feb. 11.50; Antimony Feb. 11.50; Arsenic Feb. 11.50; Vanadium Feb. 11.50; Chromium Feb. 11.50; Manganese Feb. 11.50; Iron Feb. 11.50; Cobalt Feb. 11.50; Nickel Feb. 11.50; Copper Feb. 11.50; Zinc Feb. 11.50; Tin Feb. 11.50; Lead Feb. 11.50; Silver Feb. 11.50; Gold Feb. 11.50; Platinum Feb. 11.50; Palladium Feb. 11.50; Rhodium Feb. 11.50; Iridium Feb. 11.50; Osmium Feb. 11.50; Selenium Feb. 11.50; Tellurium Feb. 11.50; Bismuth Feb. 11.50; Antimony Feb. 11.50; Arsenic Feb. 11.50; Vanadium Feb. 11.50; Chromium Feb. 11.50; Manganese Feb. 11.50; Iron Feb. 11.50; Cobalt Feb. 11.50; Nickel Feb. 11.50; Copper Feb. 11.50; Zinc Feb. 11.50; Tin Feb. 11.50; Lead Feb. 11.50; Silver Feb. 11.50; Gold Feb. 11.50; 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Sheaffers
"SNORKEL"

For having insufficient life-appliances on board his craft, Po Kee, 41, master of a fishing boat, was fined \$50 by the Marine Court this morning.

Sub-lsp. K. T. Wong, prosecuting, said that defendant was intercepted off Lantau Island when he was proceeding to Castle Peak. On inspecting the life appliances on board, the police found that defendant had prepared only six life-jackets, being four jackets less than the required number.